

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

What is claimed is:

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A plastic sample vessel comprising:

an elongate tubular portion comprising a closed end and a maximum external cross sectional width of 5 millimeters (mm); an internal sample volume of not more than 100 microliters (μ l); and a tubular external wall of thickness 0.01 to 2 mm; and

a neck portion for sample addition comprising an open end having a greater external cross sectional width than said tubular portion;

32. (New) The sample vessel of claim 31 wherein said vessel is tapered from said sample addition portion to said tubular portion.

33. (New) The sample vessel of claim 31 comprising a section of frustoconical shape directly or indirectly adjoining the tubular portion.

34. (New) The sample vessel of claim 31 wherein said sample addition portion is adapted to receive a cap or stopper on said open end.

35. (New) The sample vessel of claim 31 comprising a truncated conical external surface, the angle between a meridian of the truncated conical external surface and the axis of the cone being in the range of from 0.1 degrees to 10 degrees.

36. (New) The sample vessel of claim 31 that is made of injection molded plastic.

37. (New) The sample vessel of claim 36 that is made of a cyclo-olefin.

38. (New) The sample vessel of claim 31 wherein said tubular portion is longer than said neck portion.

39. (New) The sample vessel of claim 31 wherein said maximum external cross sectional width is 3 millimeters (mm).

40. (New) The sample vessel of claim 35 wherein said angle between said meridian of said truncated conical external surface and said axis of said cone is in the range of from 0.2 degrees to 8 degrees.